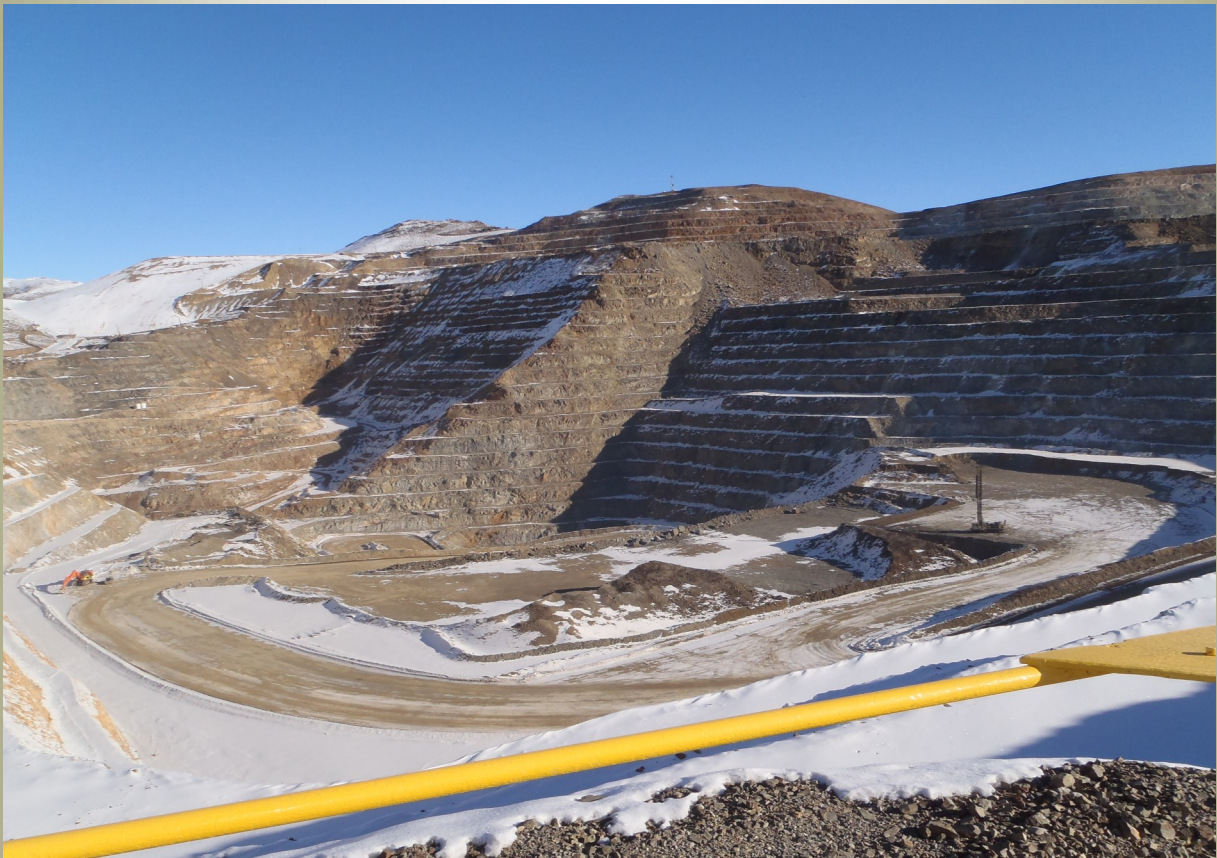




**Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District
Annual Report
January 2013**



Phoenix Project: Phoenix Pit

2013 Priorities:

Drought Monitoring and Permittee Communication - Drought monitoring will continue in order to identify drought impacted areas and adjust management where needed. Dialog with permittees will continue to coordinate monitoring efforts and negotiate drought response actions when needed.

Argenta Allotment Rangeland Health Evaluation - The Rangeland Health Evaluation and EA are scheduled to be completed and issued to the public for review in FY 2013.

Battle Mountain Complex Permit Renewal Decision - Grazing permits for the affected permittees on the North Buffalo and Copper Canyon Allotments will be issued in FY 2013.

US Forest Service Enterprise Rangeland Health Assessment Crew - Crews are scheduled to conduct monitoring and data collection on allotments in both the Tonopah and Mount Lewis Field Offices

2012 Accomplishments:

Battle Mountain Complex Permit Renewal Proposed Decision - Permit renewal for Copper Canyon and North Buffalo Allotments remains in progress for Dan & Eddyann Filippini (Badger and Chiara Ranches), Ellison Ranching Co., and Doby George, LLC. Some modifications to the Proposed Decision were brought forward. The changes have been

Drought Monitoring and Response - 21 Allotments were monitored for a total of 3,138,512 acres. Meetings were held with 27 permittees and voluntary agreements were reached to implement a variety of drought response actions resulting in 30,000 plus AUMs of voluntary nonuse.

Allotment	Plots	Acres Assessed
Santa Fe/ Ferguson	17	25,580.69
Roberts Mountain	5	10,929.49
Total	22	36,571.18

made and the Decision is drafted for signature.

Landscape Health Assessment Crew - Monitoring was conducted in the Santa Fe/Ferguson and Roberts Mountain Allotments in FY 2013.

2013 Priorities:

Range Monitoring - TFO will monitor 10 priority allotments in FY 2013. Additional allotments may also be monitored pending time limitations and staffing. Priorities have been established based on permit renewal dates for permittees, resource conditions, drought response, categorization of Sage-grouse habitat, or some combination of these.

Water Quality - TFO will continue to assess functioning condition and water quality of sources of available water for wildlife, cattle, wild horses and burros.

Watershed Analysis and Ecological Site Inventory - Ecological site inventories are conducted to evaluate an allotment's ecological status. Watershed analysis and ecological status are precursor documents in the preparation of rangeland health assessments and evaluations. These documents are critical because they are used to determine whether changes in grazing management are warranted during the permit renewal process.

TFO plans to complete the watershed assessment of a 657,520 acre allotment in FY 2013 and perform 20,000 acres of Ecological Site Inventory.

Weed Monitoring - TFO will continue to routinely monitor for weed establishment and infestations, and will continue to treat, or facilitate treatment, of noxious weed areas.

2012 Accomplishments:

Range Monitoring - Monitoring on 18 allotments was completed in FY 2012 in cooperation with the Great Basin Institute staff. Monitoring data included cover, gap, line-intercept, trend, photo plots and density. This data will be analyzed and monitoring reports will be developed to support rangeland health assessments and evaluation documents.

Weed Monitoring - Monitoring of weed infestations was conducted to determine whether established infestations were spreading, receding or remaining static. The results of weed monitoring will be used to prioritize areas for future treatment. This effort resulted in the monitoring of 47,725 acres on upland range and 62 acres in riparian areas. In addition, 196 acres were treated during FY 2013.

Watershed Analysis and Ecological Site Inventory - During the course of FY 2012, the analysis of the 10,315 acre White Sage allotment was completed.